

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

November 2015



What's New?

The photo contest awards ceremony was a successful event, thanks to Tracy Gilson and volunteers! There was a total of 14 photographers and 64 photos. Judges stated, 'we had a difficult time judging, as the quality of photographs continues to increase each year'. We had 136 votes for fan favorite! A special thanks to board member of the Friends Group, Darin Nielsen for helping present awards.



Fan Favorite: "Weasel-n-vole"
by Jim Barney



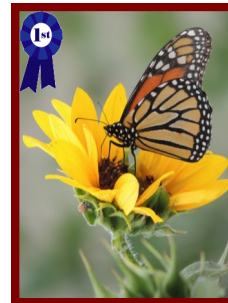
Animal Behavior: "Barn Swallow
Taking Flight" by Ron Welker



Bird Babies: "Clark's Grebe Family"
by Earl Nelson



Bird Life: "House of the
Wren" by Earl Nelson



Other Wildlife/Best of Show:
"Monarch & Ladybug on Sunflower"
by Ron Welker



Creative Nature: "Long-billed Curlews
Squabbling in a Meadow" by Ron Welker



Landscape/Habitat: "Snow Geese
Migration" by Earl Nelson



Recreation/Education: "Trent Clark
and His Boys" by Jerry H. Keller



Youth: "Get Out of My Way" by
Logan Clark



Sunrise and Sunset: "Evening
Splendor" by Lloyd Bush



New volunteer, Rachael Kersavage,
joins the Bear River team.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Rachael Kersavage was born and raised in Cache Valley. She is married and has 3 boys, ages 10, 12 and 15. Along with her boys, she has 3 dogs, a golden retriever, malamute and yorkie. She is a senior at Oregon State University (e-campus), majoring in Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in Policy and Management. She spends her free time outdoors with her family, hiking, camping, site-seeing and fishing. Her favorite animals are owls, and her favorite place to visit is Yellowstone National Park. Her favorite quote by Henry David Thoreau is, "what is the good of having a nice house without a decent planet to put it on?" We are excited to add Rachael to the Assistant Ranger Naturalist staff!



Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities



- Nov. 26th: Thanksgiving—CLOSED!
- Nov. 27th-28th: Turkey Day Open House 10-3pm!
- Dec. 24-26th: Christmas Break—CLOSED!

Biology Update:

The swans have arrived on the Refuge! The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources are aerial surveying every week for swans. On November 4th, there was a recorded +7,000 swans on the Refuge. Swan checks will need to be done for each hunter who has taken a swan. Jen, Andrea, Alyssa, Mark, Kathi, Sara, and Howard are all available to check swans. If you have questions please contact staff.



Turkey Days —November 27th and 28th

Come learn about turkeys and celebrate Turkey Days with Bear River on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 27th and 28th, from 10-3 pm. There will be free family fun crafts, coloring pages, and nature films! If you would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Andrea Johnson at 435-734-6426.



Goodbye!

We say goodbye to our extraordinary SCA biology technician, Sara Prussing. She has impacted many of our lives with her enthusiasm and love of the Refuge. Her attention to detail and hard work has been a great asset to the Refuge and has furthered biological collection of data. She influenced hundreds of children during teaching season and helped contribute to the overall mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service. We will greatly miss her, and wish her best of luck on her new adventures!

Creature Feature: Song Sparrow

- Females are attracted not just to the male's song itself, but to how well it reflects their abilities to learn. Males that used more intricate components in their songs and that better matched their song tutors were preferred.
- Typically nests in the same spots each year
- Eats mainly seeds and fruits but will also eat bugs in the summer



Turkey Gobblers

1. What is a turkey's favorite dessert?
2. Why did the cranberries turn red?
3. Why did they let the turkey join the band?

1. Peach gobbler 2. Because they saw the turkey dressing 3. Because he had the drumsticks